

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 17, 2014

Eric M. Seleznow
Acting Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Seleznow:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Trade Adjustment Assistance petition filed on behalf of workers at the Stanley Furniture Industries Inc. facility in Robbinsville, NC on April 11, 2014. The case number is TA-W-85236.

Stanley Furniture's decision to discontinue domestic production of its Young America line on June 2, 2014 will affect approximately 400 workers currently employed at the plant. Lower-priced imports have sizably reduced demand for Stanley's domestically manufactured children's furniture, resulting in the closure of the Graham County, North Carolina facility. Graham County currently has the highest unemployment rate in the state at an alarming 13.8%, far exceeding the reported rate in North Carolina and the country. I am deeply concerned about the impact this closure will have in a region that is still struggling to recover from the severe economic pain caused by the recession and the continuing influence of foreign trade.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) could help to alleviate some of the painful impact Stanley's closing will cause in the area, and provide needed services to assist affected workers with the transition into new employment. Income support provided under the TAA program's Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) will be particularly critical for these workers, as North Carolina only provides 17 weeks of state unemployment insurance benefits at present.

Based on the criteria set forth in the Trade Act of 1974, I am confident that the workers at the Stanley Furniture plant in Robbinsville meet the requirements for TAA eligibility. I urge you to certify their petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance as soon as possible.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator